



## **Memorandum**

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Bob Morgan, Interim City Manager

DATE: June 25, 2009

SUBJECT: IFYI

### **IFYI HIGHLIGHTS**

- Downtown Design & Compatibility Manual
- Code Enforcement Activity in Glenwood Neighborhood
- Outside Legal Fees
- Consolidation of Water Bills Mailed to Owners of Multiple Rental Properties

### **Downtown Design and Compatibility Manual**

Staff recommends postponing distribution of the Downtown Development Manual for 60-days to engage in additional dialogue with stakeholders. For more information, contact Dick Hails, Planning Director.

### **Code Enforcement Activity in Glenwood Neighborhood**

At the June 2 City Council Meeting, a Council Member requested staff follow-up on blighted properties on Glenwood Avenue. The Inspections Division has engaged in substantial code enforcement activity in the Glenwood area during FY 08-09. Attached is a copy of the summary of the code enforcement activity in the Glenwood area (Freeman Mill Road to High Point Road and Lee Street to Florida Street) from July 1, 2008 through June 24, 2009. For additional information, please contact Butch Simmons, Engineering & Inspections Director.

### **Outside Legal Fees**

Council Member Rakestraw inquired as to the amount of money spent on outside legal fees during FY 08-09. A memo from City Attorney Terry Wood is attached providing the requested information.

### **Consolidation of Water Bills Mailed to Owners of Multiple Rental Properties**

Our current water bill mailing system consolidates bills mailed to owners of multiple rental properties. Most businesses currently receive bills together in one envelope. However, there may be particular cases that are not working as they should because of varied coding issues. Staff is regularly reviewing accounts to remedy this problem.

Additionally, staff is researching upgrades for the system to improve functionality. The ability to move forward with e-billing and enhanced web applications will also help improve the billing system. Staff is reviewing all options.

**Inspections Division Code Enforcement Activity for Glenwood Neighborhood**  
(Census tracts 115.00 and 116.01 01 - From Freeman Mill Road to High Point Road and  
Lee Street to Florida Street)

**Information from July 1, 2008 until June 24, 2009**

**# Rental Inspections Completed – 62**

**# Nuisance Cases Completed – 320**

**# Vehicle Inspections Completed – 71**

**# Housing Inspections Completed – 52**

**# Houses Repaired after being heard at Housing Commission (HC) – 4**

**# Houses in process of demolition (passed order from HC) – 3**

**# Houses Outstanding with Orders (passed for Demo. From HC) - 2**

**# Houses Demolished by City – 3**

**# Active Housing Cases – 99**

**# Active Rental Inspections – 11**

**# Active Nuisance Cases – 43**

**# Active Vehicles Cases – 15**

**# Building Permits Issued – 103**

**# Trade Permits Issued - 282**



Date: June 25, 2009

To: The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: A. Terry Wood, City Attorney

Subject: Payment of Outside Legal Fees

The City Attorney's Office was asked this week to provide amounts spent for outside legal fees for the period beginning July 1, 2008 to the present. The costs incurred by the City for outside legal fees since July 1, 2008 will be explained below excluding payments made that are reimbursed from outside sources, mediation fees which typically were court ordered, and settlement checks made payable to the sellers' attorneys at time of closing real property acquisitions.

Based upon information provided to us by various Departments, the City of Greensboro as of this writing has paid a total of \$911,259.47 during the past year to outside law firms defending the City in various cases. The aforementioned amount includes \$368,305.62 paid to Brooks Pierce McLendon. The majority of payments to Brooks Pierce McLendon were expended in defending actions brought by MCI against the City. The amount also includes payments made from the City Clerk's Legislative Account for services provided by Cam Cover in assisting the City with its Legislative Program. Attached for your information is an updated list of payments made to Brooks Pierce McLendon for legislative assistance.

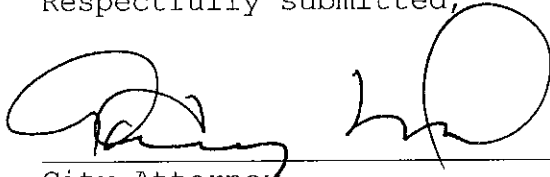
The second largest amount paid to an outside law firm was made to Smith Moore Leatherwood in the amount of \$358,644.16. Smith Moore Leatherwood is defending the City against a number of employment related claims and lawsuits brought in State and Federal Court alleging discrimination.

The balance of the costs incurred for outside legal services involve claims brought against public officials and City employees alleging negligence and various civil rights claims,

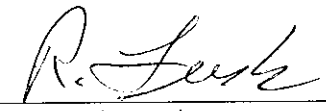
Memo to Mayor and City Council  
June 25, 2009  
Page 2

Bond counsel fees and patent services incurred to copyright  
various City logos.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

CONCURRING:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rick Lusk, Director  
Financial & Administrative Services

CC: Interim City Manager  
Assistant City Managers

**Brooks Pierce – Cam Cover Charges for July 1, 2008 thru June, 2009**

July, 2008	4,687.50
August, 2008	10.00
October, 2008	837.50
November, 2008	750.20
December, 2008	635.00
January, 2009	
February 2009	1,385.20
March 2009	2,260.00
April 2009	3,275.00
May 2009	7,71.10
June 2009	6,895.20

**Total for FY 08-09 27,806.50**  
**Prepared 6-24-09**